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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 606**  
**135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 606's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Pizzulli and Jarrells

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The bill appropriates a total of \$4 million in FY 2025 from the GRF to support three new grant programs that will be distributed to institutions of higher education or certain higher education student organizations on those campuses to enhance security measures and ensure student safety at on- and off-campus locations and to support intergroup and interfaith outreach and cultural competency between institution-affiliated student organizations.
- The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) will incur annual expenditures likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars range to administer the three grant programs; establish a committee on combating antisemitism and other forms of racial, religious, and ethnic bias, harassment, and intimidation; and create a uniform reporting system on hate incidents at public and private colleges and universities.
- State institutions of higher education may incur costs ranging from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars to adopt and enforce a policy on racial, religious, and ethnic bias, harassment, and intimidation at the institution, including training faculty and staff on how to respond to hate incidents or incidents of harassment, along with other requirements in the bill.
- Any state agency that does not have a policy for the prevention of antisemitism will incur administrative costs to adopt one, as required by the bill.

## Detailed Analysis

### Campus grant programs

The bill appropriates a total of \$4 million from the GRF in FY 2025 to support the following programs:

- **Campus Security Grant Program.** The bill appropriates \$2 million in FY 2025 from GRF line item 235475, Campus Security Support Program, for the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) to distribute to institution-sanctioned student organizations affiliated with communities that are at risk for increased threats of violent crime, terror attacks, hate crimes, or harassment to enhance security measures and ensure student safety at on- and off-campus locations at institutions of higher education throughout the state.
- **Campus Student Safety Grant Program.** The bill creates the Campus Student Safety Grant Program and supports it with an appropriation of \$1 million in FY 2025 from GRF line item 235476, Campus Student Safety Grant Program. ODHE will award grants to institutions of higher education that demonstrate increased threats of violent crime, terror attacks, hate crimes, or harassment toward students and student organizations at the institution to enhance security measures and ensure student safety at on- and off-campus locations.
- **Campus Community Grant Program.** The bill creates the Campus Community Grant Program and supports it with an appropriation of \$1.0 million in FY 2025 from GRF line item 2354A3, Campus Community Grant Program. ODHE will provide funding to institutions of higher education to support intergroup and interfaith outreach and cultural competency between institution-affiliated student organizations.

### ODHE additional responsibilities

In addition to administering each of the grant programs mentioned above, the bill requires ODHE to establish a committee on combating antisemitism and other forms of racial, religious, and ethnic bias, harassment, and intimidation at public and private colleges and universities in Ohio. Under the bill, the committee must develop guidance on preventing antisemitism and other forms of racial, religious, and ethnic bias, harassment, and intimidation. The guidance will be posted on ODHE's website. ODHE must also establish a uniform reporting system under which an institution must submit a report each year of all allegations of racial, religious, and ethnic bias, harassment, and intimidation received by the institution and any other documented incidents at the institution in that year. Any reports delivered through the system are required by the bill to be sent to the Chancellor, Attorney General, and the U.S. attorneys for the Northern and Southern districts of Ohio.

These new responsibilities will increase the administrative workload of ODHE. According to a spokesperson with ODHE, the agency estimates administrative costs may increase by approximately \$250,000 each year. Most of these costs are related to hiring additional staff to administer the three grant programs. For the Campus Student Safety and Campus Community grant programs, the bill also requires ODHE to develop guidelines and procedures for the programs, including an application process, criteria for awards, and a method to determine the distribution of awards. According to ODHE, the cost for the reporting system may be minimal, but will most likely depend on how it will be constructed.

## **Institutions of higher education additional responsibilities**

The bill requires each institution of higher education to adopt and enforce a policy on racial, religious, and ethnic bias, harassment, and intimidation at the institution within 90 days of the bill's effective date. Below is a list of what the bill requires each policy to include, along with estimated costs for state universities and community colleges as reported by their respective stakeholder groups:

1. Training for all institution administration, faculty, and staff that provides information on how to respond to hate incidents or incidents of harassment that occur during a class or event held at the institution, at the time such an incident occurs. According to the Inter-University Council (IUC) and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC), this provision constitutes the largest costs for most institutions, ranging from less than \$10,000 to possibly up to \$450,000 per institution.
2. A written procedure for investigating and resolving (including potential disciplinary action) student complaints and allegations of racial, religious, or ethnic bias, harassment, or intimidation threatened or taken against any student, staff, or faculty member. Costs for this provision could range between less than \$2,000 to tens of thousands of dollars per institution depending on the number of allegations made and the staff time to investigate.
3. The creation of a campus task force on combating religious-based hatred, harassment, bullying, or violence. Most estimates from the institutions sampled by IUC and OACC indicate that the cost to create this task force would range from minimal to \$10,000.
4. The creation of partnerships between university police, local law enforcement, the state highway patrol, and student communities to provide security functions for student groups that face threats of terror attack or hate crimes, both on and off campus. According to IUC and OACC, these expenditures may be minimal depending on the duration and scope of needed assistance and the availability of internal resources. Most cost estimates from the institutions for this provision range from minimal to less than \$10,000. Any additional costs to local law enforcement would likely be offset by revenue it would receive from the institution to pay for the additional security.

As mentioned above, the bill also requires each institution to submit an annual report of all allegations of racial, religious, and ethnic bias, harassment, and intimidation, including the status and outcome of the investigations of those allegations. According to IUC and OACC, the cost for most institutions would be less than \$5,000, although a few reported higher estimates. Ultimately, costs will depend on the number of allegations made.

Finally, each institution must also publicize any time, place, or manner restrictions they place on the expressive activities of its students, including information on how the institution uses viewpoint- and content-neutral criteria to establish those restrictions. According to IUC, universities are likely to experience only a minimal increase in costs because this information is already being publicized. According to OACC, some community colleges will incur an increase in expenditures, perhaps in the several thousands of dollars range.

## **State agency policy on prevention of antisemitism**

The bill requires each state agency (including every state institution of higher education, JobsOhio, and any state retirement system or program) to adopt a policy for the prevention of antisemitism. To the extent that a state agency does not have such a policy already in place, its administrative workload will increase to create one. The cost to do so may vary, depending on how the policy is created, but are likely to be minimal.